

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,113
Amendment filed September 27, 2005
Reply to OA dated June 27, 2005

REMARKS:

Claims 1-22 are currently being examined, of which claims 1-11, 13, and 16-19 have been amended, and claims 20-22 have been newly added. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant and Applicant's attorney thank Examiner Chawan for the interview courteously granted September 6, 2005. The special attention the Examiner paid to the instant application is noted with appreciation. Items discussed during the interview include: the Office Action dated June 27, 2005 and the objection and rejections set forth therein; USP 6,513,006 (Howard '006); and claims of the subject application.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 4-19 because the word "for" is not included. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection. The word "for" is not believed to be required. Claims 1-11, 13, and 16-19, as amended, further clarify the claimed inventions. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 1-11, 13, and 16-19, as amended, further clarify the claimed inventions. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

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The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by USP 6,513,006 (**Howard '006**).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The effective U.S. filing date of the subject application is December 25, 2000, which is before the U.S. filing date of **Howard '006**, June 6, 2001.

STATEMENT ESTABLISHING COMMON OWNERSHIP:

“U.S. Application Serial No. 09/926,113 and U.S. Patent No. 6,513,006 were, at the time the invention of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/926,113 was made, owned by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.”

In view of the above, it is submitted that **Howard '006** is not available to be applied as prior art against the claims of the subject application.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn.

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Claims 20-22 have been newly added. Applicant has presented these additional claims to alternatively and more completely define Applicant's invention and thereby assist the Examiner by facilitating the speedy and compact prosecution of the present invention.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims currently being examined are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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